

calamity was about to happen, and yet we have to stand by powerless to help; like the pilot of the Titanic, he sees the glacier emerging through the midst, he spins the wheel too late. And that is the case this morning, not with a steamship but with SCHIP, the State Children's Health Insurance Plan.

It doesn't take any towering intellect to see the problems. We're going to vote to tax Americans with private health insurance, and we're going to take the benefits away from older Americans, with their Medicare, and we're going to give that money to give free health insurance to children with families making more than \$80,000, children of illegal immigrants.

All of history suggests that socialized medicine is not the way to go, and yet the Democrats are about to vote for something which will make the Titanic wreck look small.

SCHIP

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, in 2002, when I was campaigning for Congress, I met Dolores Sweeney, who had three children. She worked full time at an insurance company, was too rich for Medicaid and too poor to get her own private insurance because her company didn't provide it.

Today, her three children are enrolled in SCHIP. Those kids, today, have health care because we did right, where, between private sector not providing health care and Medicaid, a woman who worked full time did right by her children, got healthcare for her kids, and her 19-year-old today is going to college and doing the right choices.

The question we have before us, as my colleague from South Carolina just asked, are we going to provide our constituents with the healthcare that our own children and Members of Congress get, that taxpayers pay for? That is the question that is going to be before us today: Are we going to do right by the Dolores Sweeneys of the world in the same way that our constituents do right by us, as Members of Congress, and for our own children? These are people who have worked full time, at no fault of their own, whose children don't have health care. And we will provide those children, 11 million children, the health care that their parents cannot provide.

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THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, as a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, which shares jurisdiction over the SCHIP bill, H.R. 3162, I would

like to express my frustration with the way this bill has been rammed through the legislative process.

Since January, we had only one hearing on the SCHIP program. We did not have a legislative hearing on H.R. 3162, which is supposed to be the Democrats' signature piece of health care legislation this Congress, no markup in subcommittee, and it was written in secret with no input from our side of the aisle. In fact, the text of the bill was not even provided to members of the committee until 11:33 the night before the full committee markup was supposed to take place.

Madam Speaker, bringing a bill with over \$200 billion in authorized spending to the floor without allowing the bill to go through the proper legislative process is simply poor governance.

THE CHAMP ACT AND DEMOCRATIC EFFORTS TO ENSURE MORE CHILDREN HAVE ACCESS TO HEALTH INSURANCE

(Mr. WELCH of Vermont asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. The question before the House today is really very simple: Will the United States of America, the wealthiest country in the world, pass legislation that guarantees access to health care for all the children of the citizens of this country?

Many of our States, including Vermont, have taken the lead. They answered that question in the affirmative: The children of working parents, children whose parents are doing the right thing, should have the health care they need when they need it.

That has been done on a bipartisan basis. Republican and Democratic Governors in my State of Vermont have supported access to health care for our kids; 98 percent are covered in Vermont.

Why is it that this Congress has been unable to take that step until today? We will change that. It is the right thing to do. It is good for our kids. It is good for our country. It is well within the reach of this Congress to do.

Madam Speaker, I hope that our friends on the Republican side will join us in what will be a historic day for our kids.

TOWARDS FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE SCHIP LEGISLATION

(Mr. WALBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, I support renewing SCHIP to aid children in low-income families. But the bill that the Democratic leadership plans to bring to the floor this week is an absolute train wreck that will lead to a nanny-state, government-run health care system.

This bill would cause 3.2 million seniors in 22 States, including over 14,000

in my district, to lose their Medicare Advantage benefits. The Congressional Budget Office says this bill would shift 2.1 million children who are currently in private health care plans to less effective, government-run health care.

Additionally, this bill guts several fiscal responsibility measures designed to keep Medicare spending in check, encourage illegal immigrants to apply for SCHIP and Medicaid benefits by eliminating the requirement that persons applying for such services show proof of citizenship or nationality, and makes it possible for people 25 years old to receive SCHIP benefits.

In summation, this bill takes a program designed to aid children of low-income families and instead expands our welfare state and sides with bureaucracy rather than the needy children and seniors.

Madam Speaker, I strongly encourage my colleagues to oppose this form of legislation.

AN OPEN AND HONEST CONGRESS FOR EVERYDAY AMERICANS

(Mr. ARCURI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ARCURI. Madam Speaker, on the first day of the 110th Congress, the Democratic majority in this House enacted the toughest ethics reform in a generation by passing a landmark rules package that broke the link between lobbyists and legislators. This important step toward cleaning up Congress ended gifts, private jets and meals paid for by lobbyists.

Yesterday, we continued our commitment to restore accountability to Washington and passed the final House-Senate agreement on the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007. This tough legislation, which ends the tight-knit relationship between lobbyists and lawmakers takes another major step toward making this Congress the most open and honest in American history.

I am proud to have supported this critical bill, which has been hailed by reform groups as a "sea of change for citizens" and "landmark reform." I am proud of our Democratic majority that works so quickly to enact real change for Americans, which they demanded during last year's election.

Madam Speaker, this Democratic House is dedicated to making sure that Congress works for everyday Americans and not just special interests.

EGYPT NEEDS TO PROTECT PEOPLE OF ALL FAITHS

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, I want to take a moment to talk about Shaymaa el-Sayed, an Egyptian woman. Security forces in Egypt tortured this young woman for converting